

Message Text

PAGE 01 MANAGU 03062 102201Z

67

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 NIC-01 AID-20 PC-04 DODE-00

PM-07 H-02 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

RSR-01 HEW-08 MED-03 /140 W

----- 045317

R 102110Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1985

INFO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

CONFIDENTIAL MANAGUA 3062

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB NU

SUBJECT: LABOR TROUBLES CONTINUE

REF: MANAGUA 2991 AND 2996

1. STRIKES CONTINUE IN TWO CRITICAL SECTORS OF NICARAGUA'S RECOVERY EFFORT. THE CONSTRUCTION WORKERS' STRIKE ENTERS ITS FOURTH WEEK WITH AN ESTIMATED 5,000 MEN STAYING OFF THE JOB AND ALL MAJOR CONSTRUCTION IN THE MANAGUA AREA AT A STANDSTILL. STRIKING DOCTORS AND INTERNS AT THE THREE MAJOR PUBLIC HOSPITALS HAVE LEFT MOST OF THE POPULACE WITHOUT ADEQUATE INPATIENT HOSPITAL FACILITIES.

2. THE GON HAS TAKEN A HARD LINE AGAINST THE SCAAS, THE COMMUNIST-ORIENTED CONSTRUCTION WORKERS' UNION, IN AN EFFORT TO BREAK THE CONSTRUCTION STRIKE. ABOUT 30 LEADERS OF SCAAS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED SINCE FRIDAY, JULY 6, WHEN THE NATIONAL GUARD RAIDED THE SCAAS HEADQUARTERS AND HAULED AWAY EQUIPMENT AND CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MANAGU 03062 102201Z

PROPAGANDA FOUND THERE. AMONG THOSE ARRESTED WAS FRANCISCO MEDRANO, PRINCIPAL NEGOTIATOR FOR SCAAS' SUCCESSFUL STRIKE IN APRIL 1973, WHICH FORCED A RETURN TO THE 48 HOUR WEEK. IN AN EFFORT TO BYPASS SCAAS, GENERAL SOMOZA HAS PUBLICLY ORDERED

THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS TO IMPORT WORKERS FROM THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENTS TO REPLACE STRIKERS WORKING ON GOVERNMENT PROJECTS. RELIEF FROM THIS SOURCE IS UNLIKELY, HOWEVER, BECAUSE MOST SKILLED CONSTRUCTION WORKERS WHO LIVED OUTSIDE THE CAPITAL, HAVE LONG SINCE BEEN RECRUITED FOR WORK IN MANAGUA. COMMENT: SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS TO SETTLE THE CONSTRUCTION STRIKE ARE UNLIKELY SO LONG AS THE GON CONINUES TO DETAIN SCAAS LEADERS. AT THE SAME TIME, THE STRIKING WORKERS FEEL LITTLE PRESSURE TO RETURN TO WORK AT THE MAJOR CONSTRUCTION SITES. WITH AN ENTIRE CITY REBUILDING, MOST OF THE SKILLED LABORERS CAN READILY FIND EMPLOYMENT WITH SMALL REPAIR JOBS ON PRIVATE HOMES OR BUSINESSES WHILE MANY OF THE UNSKILLED HAVE SIMPLY RETURNED TO THEIR FARM HOMES FOR THE PLANTING SEASON. WITH THESE ECONOMIC FALL BACKS, THE UNION MEMBERSHIP CAN RESIST GON PRESSURES AND ENDURE A LONG STRIKE. END COMMENT.

3. IN ACTING AGAINST THE "ILLEGAL" HOSPITAL STRIKE, THE MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT HAS ORDERED STRIKING DOCTORS AND INTERNS REPLACED AND SOCIAL SECURITY AND NATIONAL GUARD DOCTORS HAVE BEEN CALLED IN BY THE GON TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY HOSPITAL CARE. THE STRIKING DOCTORS AND INTERNS ARE DEMANDING A 50 PERCENT INCREASE IN SALARY. REPORTS THAT THE NURSES AND NURSES AIDS WILL SOON JOIN THE STRIKE PERSIST. NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE. THE GON IS PREPARED TO CONSIDER ADJUSTMENTS TO INCREASE TAKE-HOME PAY BY ELIMINATING MANDATORY SALARY DEDUCTIONS SUCH AS THE 5 PERCENT CONTRIBUTION TO THE LIBERAL PARTY (PLN) OR PAYING OVERTIME BUT IT RESISTS A SALRY INCREASE.

SHELTON

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 10 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 JUL 1973
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MANAGU03062
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: MANAGUA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730768/abqcefww.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: MANAGUA 2991 AND 2996
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17-Jan-2002 by thigpegh>; APPROVED <06-Feb-2002 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status:
Subject: LABOR TROUBLES CONTINUE
TAGS: ELAB, NU
To: STATE INFO TEGUCIGALPA
SAN JOSE
GUATEMALA
SAN SALVADOR
USCINCSO FOR POLAD
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

